

Application No. 09/622,615
Response dated December 1, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 11 and 26 are pending in this application. Claims 6-10 and 19-24, which are directed to non-elected inventions in the Applicants' response filed on April 29, 2002, are cancelled in this response, but Applicants still reserve a right to file a divisional application for the non-elected inventions.

Claims 1-5, 11 and 26 were rejected under 35U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The office action alleges that the active material 2 would not be in contact with the electrolyte solution due to the coating layer 3 overlying the surface of active material 2.

However, the coating layer contains at least one hydroxide, which is hydrophilic. Since the coating layer overlying the active material is hydrophilic, the electrolyte solution permeates into and contacts with the active material.

In addition, as comparing Examples A1 to A11 with Comparative Example a1, the nickel electrodes of Examples A1 to A11 having the coating layer of the hydroxide show improved results in storage characteristic compared with Comparative Example a1 without the coating layer (page 14, line 14 to page 17, line 13, and page 21, Table 1). So long as the specification describes a structure and its effects of the present invention, one skilled in the art do enable the present invention without undue experimentation. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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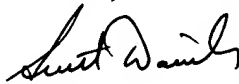
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 11 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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